U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

July 2, 1946

San Francisco Wholesale Markets
USDA FOOD BULLETIN
From Federal-State Market News Service
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Scarce is still the word for butter. Record breaking fluid milk sales, abnormal demands for ice cream, and a declining milk flow all tend to see little gain in butter production. Distribution is at low levels. Dealers continue to hold supplies off the market. So far, not much effect has been felt from the recent 10-cent price rise. The report that, for the week ending June 22, San Francisco retail sales increased 58% and were only 5% below last year makes for a little more cheerful aspect.

Eggs - Production this past week was on a continual decline, but receipts were larger than last year at this time. Top quality eggs have remained in strong demand. On Thursday, June 27, ceiling prices advanced one cent on Grade "AA" and "A" Large eggs to sell at 44½¢ per dozen. Other grades remained unchanged in price. On Monday, July 1, after removal of ceiling prices, egg movement into retail channels was comparatively large, with the opinion that there would be no immediate change in market conditions.

Poultry - This past week saw supplies of young chickens considerably below those of last year. This, coupled with the disregard for ceiling prices at country points, made purchasing difficult. Receipts on Monday, July 1st, were mostly Leghorn hens. Demand was strong. Prices remained at the June 30 ceiling level.

MEAT

Beef - The beginning of this past week saw beef supplies even less than they have been. Some slaughterers closed because their June quotas were used up, while others were engaged in filling "set-aside" requirements. Quality ranged from Utility to Good.

Lamb - With heavier sheep marketings, lamb slaughter predominated in most plants. The quality was largely Good and Choice grade. It was expected that the strong demand would clean up all available supplies.

Pork - Hog marketings this past week were the lowest in several years. Supplies of all cuts were far short of demand.

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FRUITS

This week we have several good fruit buys. Heading the list of delicious fruits to tempt the palate during warmer days are apricots, figs, peaches, nectarines and plums.

Liberal supplies of apricots are coming in from the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Soon it is expected that supplies from Santa Clara county will be heavier. Housewives may very well begin to set their canning plans in motion.

Figs are mostly Black Missions in fairly heavy supply and moderately priced.

Peaches are in heavier supply and lower priced.

There are large supplies of nectarines at prices unchanged from last week.

Plums are in good supply with not much change in prices.

Currants are in better supply and lower priced.

Cherries are less plentiful at prices slightly lower than last week. It's the last call for canning.

Strawberries are in light supply and high. Raspberries are in moderate to rather light supply, while boysenberries and youngberries are in moderate supply at lower prices.

Cantaloups are still coming in from Imperial Valley and Arizona, with Kern county stock beginning to arrive on the market. Prices are very little changed from last week.

Honeydews are in fair supply and watermelons are down in price.

Grapes are still scarce with the most of the supply coming out of the Coachella Valley.

Apples are scarce. The new crop is selling at about 10 cents per pound for White Astrachans. The old crop has about disappeared from the market.

Among the citrus fruits, grapefruit is selling at a top price of just slightly over the old ceiling price, while large sized oranges are higher and small sizes are unchanged. There has been no change on lemons.

VEGETABLES

The week's best vegetable buys include the same items as for last week. There are plentiful supplies of dry onions, which perhaps housewives have been overlooking as an added touch to pep up summer meals; abundant supplies of all soft squash; good quality Tulare country tomatoes; and potatoes, especially good Red Triumphs.

Cabbage, cauliflower, corn, and celery are all fair to good buys now. Lettuce, at unchanged prices, and cucumbers are also fair buys.

Snap beans went up about one cent per pound after ceiling price removal. Supplies are now fairly heavy.

Peppers have increased in supply and are lower priced at 8 to 12 cents per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 12, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 9 -- Peaches, including several varieties of both yellow and white, are the outstanding fruit buy. The supply is abundant and the price is right. Among the white, juicy peaches, there are the Hales, early, Nectars, and Babcocks. Golden Jubilees, Fishers, and Early Elbertas are the yellow peaches.

From the heavy crop of Santa Clara apricots, Blenheims are coming to the wholesale market in plentiful quantities. Sizes are mostly medium to small. They are the flat apricot with a yellow to reddish cheek. Tiltons are running in pretty large size out of Contra Costa county and about medium size from the San Joaquin Valley. There are some Royals on the market, too. The total apricot supply is now heavy enough so that canning time has arrived. Prices haven't changed very much from a week ago.

Plums, mostly Santa Rosas, are in plentiful supply and moderately priced. A few round, yellow Shiro variety are on the market. They are large size, but pretty high priced yet.

It's about the last call for cherries. The season is just about over and the price is going up. However, there are still some good looking Bings to be had.

This week will see about the last of the Alameda county currants on the market.

Watermelons are now coming in from the San Joaquin Valley. At lower prices, they are the best melon buy.

For those who like a good apple, it is pleasant to hear that Gravensteins are making their appearance and that the supply of White Astrachans is gradually increasing.

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For the salad bowl, there is a plentiful supply of tomatoes from Tulare county and a few have begun to come in from Winters in Yolo county. And for the garnish, Bell peppers are lower priced and in better supply.

Snap beans are now in good supply and are a good buy.

While green corn is still pretty high priced, there is an ample supply and the quality is good. Most of it is of the Golden Cross variety.

There's plenty of squash on the market at lower prices. Dry onions and cucumbers are both in generous supply and good buys.

Celery is coming in from Santa Clara county and also from Alameda county. The price is fair and the supply is ample.

Potatoes, of course, continue to be one of the best vegetable buys.

Cattle and sheep are coming to market in increasingly heavy amounts. Since the removal of price controls, this has been almost a daily occurrence on the San Francisco Wholesale Livestock Market. Hogs are still in light supply. For the past week, prices have been on an upward swing, but it looks as though this week will see a better meat supply.

Almost all dairy and poultry wholesale dealers are "holding the line" on prices. Top quality eggs are in lighter supply and prices have gone up one to two cents on the wholesale market. Even butter is in better supply than it has been.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 19, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 16 -- Again this week, peaches are the best fruit buy. In addition to last week's varieties, strawberry freestone peaches are coming in from the San Joaquin Valley. Supplies are fairly heavy and wholesale prices fairly low.

Liberal supplies of nectarines are a good buy, too.

Blenheim apricots from Santa Clara county are in good supply at the same prices as last week. Canning time is here.

Plums are abundant at the same prices as last week.

Blackberries are the best buy among the berries. They are plentiful at lower prices. There is a fairly good supply of strawberries on the market, but the quality varies from very good to poor. The season is about over on boysenberries and youngberries.

Some very fine quality cantaloups are now coming in from the San Joaquin Valley and the price is lower. Watermelons are also lower priced.

The first Bartlett pears of the season have arrived, but the price is high.

ONIONS - red, yellow and white onions -- are all good buys. Supplies are more than plentiful and wholesale prices are right. Mushrooms are in better supply and lower priced, too. These two are good partners for that steak.

To tempt summer appetites with a tossed salad, there are good quality tomatoes from Tulare and Fresno counties, lots of cucumbers from Santa Clara county at lower prices, abundant supplies of lettuce at about the same price, and generous supplies of low-priced Bell peppers to make salad rings.

There is good quality celery at lower prices and good Golden Cross corn at a reasonable wholesale price. And to end the parade of good vegetable buys, there are potatoes in ample supply at a little higher price and plenty of soft squash.

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Cattle and sheep are pouring into the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market at a steady pace. Hogs continue to run in third place with receipts light. Prices on all livestock are on an upward trend still. There's more meat on the market. Grades of beef are ranging from Medium to Good and the liberal slaughter of lamb and mutton is largely Good and Choice grade.

After months of a butter dearth, there is butter on store shelves now. But consumers are reluctant to buy at the higher prices.

With a more plentiful supply of meat at hand, demand for poultry is less. Supplies of all poultry are good with wholesale prices lower.

Top quality eggs are less plentiful, but there are plenty of small eggs and lower grade eggs. Wholesale prices on Large and Medium eggs went up one cent last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending July 26, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23 -- Peaches, for the third consecutive week, are the best fruit buy. Several varieties of both yellow and white peaches are in plentiful supply at reasonable wholesale prices.

Apricots are still in abundant supply at prices about the same, and together with a good supply of nectarines and numerous varieties of plums, are another good fruit buy.

Gravenstein apples are now in moderate supply and are lower priced.

Black Mission figs are slightly lower priced, but are not too plentiful.

Both berries and cherries are becoming scarce.

What few Bartlett pears there are on the market are high priced, and the only good buy among the citrus fruits is the small orange.

But this week, there are two good melon buys -- plentiful supplies of Cranshaws at lower prices and good quality watermelons at more reasonable prices.

Cucumbers, red and yellow onions, peppers and squash, top the list of best vegetable buys. They are all in liberal supply with wholesale prices considerably lower than they have been.

Moderate supplies of snap beans, celery, Golden Cross corn, and fair to good quality lettuce are all moderately priced.

Potatoes are still a good buy, but are slightly higher priced than they have been.

Tomatoes are tapering off in supply. Prices are up from last week, but are still moderate. With the quality about the same, they can be considered as a fair buy.

At the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market good supplies of cattle and sheep are arriving on the market. Sheep receipts are the highest. Hogs continue to take third place. Prices are coming down after their upward swing of the past two weeks. Quality on both beef and lamb is ranging from Commercial to Choice grades.

Eggs production is continually tapering off. Supplies of top quality eggs are running short of demand, while there are plenty of small and lower grade eggs. Wholesale prices on top quality eggs went up another cent last week.

There's plenty of poultry on the market now. Since the return of meat, consumer demand is lagging on all classes of poultry. Last week wholesale prices dropped two to three cents on young chickens and hens.